

# MASTERPIECES of COLORADO

A RICH LEGACY OF LANDSCAPE PAINTING



This lesson can be used while viewing the exhibit.

## Water Detective

**Grade Level:** 1-4      **Duration:** One 40-45 minute class period

**Materials:** Pencils, clipboards, attached handout

**Colorado Standards:** Science: 1 and 4; Geology: 3; Visual Arts: 1, 4, 5

### DESCRIPTION:

Students will discuss the many ways that water is evident on the earth's surface. They will look at landscape paintings and describe the bodies of water that they see.

### PROCEDURE:

1. Prior to the visit to the exhibit, discuss the different ways water manifests itself on earth. Brainstorm the kinds of bodies of water one might find in various parts of the country such as lakes, oceans, seas, and ponds. Talk about the moving water in streams and rivers. What kinds of bodies of water might one find in Colorado both on the plains and in the mountains?
2. Use the attached handout while viewing the *Masterpieces of Colorado Landscape* exhibit. Record the various types of water sources next to the title of each painting. Add up the totals for each type of water and create a graph or chart showing the findings.
3. While going through the exhibit, stop and discuss the paintings that show evidence of where water once was but was not there by the time the scene was painted. Discuss how we know that there was once water there. One example is the painting of the Western Slope, *Consider an Eagle's View*, by Len Chmiel.

### ADAPTATIONS:

Have students work in groups of two or three when filling out the worksheet.

### EXTENSIONS:

1. Collect water samples from various places around the school including ponds, rivers, melted snow, rain, commercial bottled water, and tap water. Look at and smell the various water samples and record the findings on a chart or graph.
2. Look for evidence of water erosion on rocks you have collected around different water sources. Observe the smoothness of a river rock compared to a jagged rock. Investigate the ways moving water and small particles work together to break down rocks.
3. Boating, swimming, tubing, fishing, ice-skating, and other recreational activities add to the variety of outdoor activities available in Colorado. Discuss the ways in which the water sources shown in the paintings are used.

